



Economic and Social Council
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1999/104
S/1999/754
6 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1999
Geneva, 5-30 July 1999
Agenda item 4

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES
OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER
BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME:
DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA: IMPLEMENTATION
AND COORDINATED FOLLOW-UP BY THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF INITIATIVES
ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 1 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Blueprint for a United States-Africa Partnership for the Twenty-first Century that came out of the first United States-Africa Ministerial (see annex),* an agreement between the United States and 46 sub-Saharan African nations to foster greater economic development, trade, investment, political reform and mutual economic growth, held in Washington, D.C., from 15 to 18 March 1999.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 4, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Peter BURLEIGH
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

Annex

Blueprint for a United States-Africa Partnership for the
Twenty-first Century, Washington, D.C., 18 March 1999

Eighty-three Ministers from forty-six sub-Saharan African nations, representatives from four North African nations, and the heads of eight African regional organizations met with President Clinton, eight members of the U.S. Cabinet, four agency heads, and other senior U.S. officials in Washington, D.C., March 15-18, 1999, to consider the future of the U.S.-Africa Partnership in the 21st Century. At this historic, unprecedented and productive gathering, we identified opportunities for enhanced cooperation as well as important issues to address collectively through our new Partnership.

We intend to work together on the major issues connecting sub-Saharan Africa and the United States. Given the Ministerial nature of these meetings, our dialogue focused on governmental actions. Yet we also took heed of the critical roles that the private sector and civil society can and must play in our countries and in our Partnership. We thus used the occasion to network with business and NGO representatives. Additionally, African participants found meetings with the U.S. Congress to be constructive and informative.

COMMON PERSPECTIVES

U.S. and African Ministers share the conviction that the acceleration of Africa's integration into the global economy is in our mutual interest and will benefit the people of both the United States and Africa. They recognize that each side of the Partnership has much to offer the other. The United States has capital, technology, strong experience in international trade and investment, and the world's richest and most open market. Africa has abundant natural resources and talented, hard-working people who are nearly three times more numerous than the population of the United States. Many sub-Saharan African nations have reformed their economies in the 1990s, liberalizing trade and investment regimes and moving toward a greater reliance on the private sector. These economies performed significantly better than in the previous two decades.

African-U.S. economic ties continue to grow. For example, U.S. exports to Africa grew more rapidly in 1998 than did U.S. exports to most other regions and are now 45% greater than its exports to all countries of the former Soviet Union combined. On a balance of payments basis, American private investment consistently produces a higher rate of return in Africa than in any other region.

Aware of the role that the market plays in the creation of wealth and the efficient allocation of resources, many African governments continue efforts to establish conditions conducive to broad-based growth and sustainable economic development. These efforts include increased and more effective investment in human and physical capital, and poverty alleviation. African and U.S. participants agreed upon the importance of fiscal and monetary discipline, increasing domestic savings, creating improved conditions for private domestic and international investment, access to capital and technology, sustainable environmental practices, a healthy, well-educated citizenry, and transparent, predictable governance based on the rule of law and the consent of the governed.

/...

Through continued technical and development assistance, and through programs that facilitate private sector growth and development, the United States is committed to helping its African partners in this vital effort. At the same time, the U.S. will endeavor to increase support for African regional cooperation and integration, economic reform, democracy, good governance, and other shared objectives.

Long-term trends throughout Africa are encouraging. Many African nations are undertaking economic reforms and are making substantial progress in consolidating democracy and creating more inclusive societies. Our Partnership is committed to bolstering these positive developments where they are already in place and to nurturing the seeds of hope where turmoil has impeded their growth.

Africa is a vast and varied continent facing significant challenges as well as extraordinary opportunities. Conflicts impede economic, social, and political development, and they exact a terrible human toll. They also form breeding grounds for transnational threats such as terrorism, arms proliferation, crime syndicates, drug trafficking, and environmental degradation. If unchecked, these scourges could impede the hard-won gains of the last decade. The United States is committed to helping African nations and their regional organizations develop greater capacity to prevent and resolve conflicts. African participants welcomed the intensification of that American commitment and reaffirmed their responsibility - and determination - to solve their own problems.

THE WAY FORWARD

Discussion covered a broad range of economic and political issues, identifying opportunities for deeper mutual engagement and establishing procedures to address differences. The United States explained the philosophy of the Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity in Africa announced by the President on June 17, 1997. U.S. officials pointed out that it is based on the premise that economic reforms pursued by African countries have been effective and that reforming countries make the best use of external assistance. The United States should therefore make increasing efforts to devote special attention to reforming countries. Some African participants asked that the Partnership find ways to include all African countries at each stage of the reform process, which the United States assured them was a shared objective of the Partnership.

Trade

African participants called for the rapid passage by the U.S. Congress of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, both as a vital symbol of increased U.S. engagement and as evidence of U.S. support for African efforts to grow through increased openness to international trade and investment. Participants endorsed the premises underlying the Act, which would help integrate Africa into the global economy and build a strong commercial partnership between Africa and the United States. To enhance this partnership, the Department of Commerce Foreign Commercial Service will expand its country coverage to further assist U.S. businesses interested

in Africa. The participants noted that the benefits of increased trade would run in both directions. The Act would foster increased two-way trade. It would also attract investment to build African capacity to compete in the global economy, generating employment and planting the seeds for other market-based production.

The Act would also facilitate trade and investment by making the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) more predictable, by extending the program for ten years. African Ministers called for the expansion of the number of GSP product lines, and the United States noted that it recently added some 1800 products under the GSP umbrella for Least Developed Countries, 29 of which are in Africa. These additional benefits would be extended by the Act to all eligible sub-Saharan African countries. Last year the United States announced GSP cumulation benefits for eligible members of SADC, WAEMU, and the EAC. Participants agreed that there is significant potential for increased African exports to the United States. One way of realizing this potential is through better understanding of U.S. laws, regulations, and procedures. African participants asked the United States to continue to expand programs that increase African understanding of U.S. market access requirements. The U.S. is planning seminars for sub-Saharan African nations on GSP in the near future.

African participants noted the specific problems and needs of small, island, and/or landlocked states, which may be marginalized in the process of globalization and liberalization. The United States noted the progress many African countries have made in facilitating access for foreign business enterprises and encouraged further liberalization of the business climate. At the same time, the participants noted that access to each other's markets needs to be further liberalized. The U.S. will support a request for a continuation of the current WTO Lome waiver for a sufficiently-long transitional period for non-reciprocal trade preferences and commodity protocols in favor of African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states in a post-Lome IV period as required by the present Convention.

African participants also called for the United States to continue to increase technical assistance to Africa's public and private sectors to promote Africa's integration into the global economy and the system of WTO rules. The U.S. is conducting a series of workshops in Africa on the WTO for the public and private sectors. The U.S. and African participants also agreed on the need for multilateral institutions to more effectively coordinate and cooperate with the WTO on trade and investment issues affecting African countries, primarily in the area of technical assistance. African participants asked the United States to support OAU/AEC permanent observer status in the WTO. The U.S. agreed to support this, in principle, pending the decision of the WTO on modalities for observership. The United States encouraged African governments to play a more active role in the WTO, and it has asked the Chairman of the WTO's General Council to undertake consultations to resolve the observer issue. African and U.S. representatives agreed to establish a mechanism for regular consultations on WTO and related matters, in Geneva and Washington as preparation for the WTO Ministerial advances.

Investment

African Ministers agreed to continue improving investment conditions and to market their countries more effectively. The United States, in turn, will seek more vigorously to encourage U.S. business to explore opportunities in Africa. This would stimulate employment in the countries of investment as well as in the United States, as American firms service those investments and increase their trade with Africa's growing economies. In this context, the participants agreed on the need to pursue regular dialogue on U.S.-Africa trade and investment issues.

The United States noted programs already contributing to this effort, starting with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). OPIC is currently providing nearly \$1 billion in insurance and financing to 50 projects in 20 sub-Saharan countries. To facilitate its work it has executed new bilateral investment agreements with 12 sub-Saharan countries just since the President announced his economic Partnership initiative in 1997. Later that year, OPIC launched a \$120 million New Africa Opportunity Fund for Southern Africa and a \$150 million Modern Africa Growth and Investment Fund. It will also support one or more new private equity funds with aggregate capital of up to \$500 million to be invested in privately sponsored infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

The United States affirmed its interest in negotiating Bilateral Investment Treaties and Trade and Investment Framework Agreements with additional African nations and regional organizations. Participants identified opportunities for expanded cooperation in agribusiness and energy, and African Ministers requested investment in those and other core sectors -- such as industry, mining, tourism, telecommunications, transportation, and education -- that would have a major impact on their economies. They took advantage of a networking luncheon this week to discuss these priorities with American business representatives. The United States noted the investment guides it prepares on an annual basis for each African country and the help it has given a number of African countries in producing investor roadmaps. It also noted USAID's new Africa Trade and Investment Policy program developed under the Partnership. This program helps the strongest-reforming African governments and regional organizations improve the legal and regulatory environment for trade and investment activities. African Ministers expressed appreciation for these programs and asked for expanded American collaboration with African agencies that facilitate new investment.

Many ministers expressed frustration that while they had taken many economic reforms and adopted steps to address corruption and governance issues, foreign investment levels were still very disappointing. They said that the misperception of Africa among developed countries is profound and acting as a deterrent to the inflow of foreign investment and capital.

Finance

African and U.S. participants also discussed developments in international capital markets, current volatility in those markets, and ways in which African governments can best take advantage of international markets while safeguarding their economies from risks inherent in global financial markets.

Several ministers issued an appeal for the international community to develop an effective means for dealing with the severe financial problems faced by those countries emerging from conflict and called for closer collaboration between the IMF and World Bank across the board. The United States welcomed African suggestions that there should be greater and more regular communication with African nations on progress to reform the international financial architecture.

Most sub-Saharan African nations remain heavily reliant on flows of external financial support. Participants noted that the international financial institutions continued to be a major source of such support in 1998. The World Bank and African Development Bank provided over \$5.4 billion of loans, investments, and grants to sub-Saharan Africa in that year, while the IMF has about \$3 billion of commitments outstanding under current arrangements. The great majority of this funding is on highly concessional terms: new World Bank commitments to Africa under IDA represented about 35% of its global commitments of \$7.1 billion in 1998 – the largest of any geographic region.

The United States reiterated its commitment to continued support for substantial programming by the international financial institutions in reforming sub-Saharan countries. The recent record demonstrates the strength of resolve in this respect, including a pledge of \$800 million for the IDA-12 replenishment, making the United States the largest donor. Also, the United States maintained its position as the largest donor in the replenishment of the African Development Fund, and it supported a \$7 billion capital increase for the African Development Bank, in which the United States is the largest non-African shareholder. The U.S. Administration has requested in its current budget a \$50 million contribution to the trust fund for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

U.S. officials also described programs designed to support access by both American and African businesses to private equity and other forms of financing for ventures in Africa, including through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, and the Trade and Development Agency. Participants encouraged closer cooperation between U.S. agencies and the African Development Bank and other regional institutions especially regarding project finance. African participants expressed concerns about the Interagency Credit Risk Assessment System (ICRAS).

Participants also noted the critical importance of strengthening the financial sector and increasing mobilization of domestic savings. They agreed that the micro-enterprise sector is important to Africa's economic development, financial sector growth, employment generation, and poverty alleviation. The informal micro-finance network should be seen as an integral component of the larger financial sector. They agreed that there are a variety of approaches for creating a healthy enabling environment for micro-enterprise prosperity. Governments should move cautiously, with a delicate hand and nuanced approaches to improve regulations, policy and supervision, including self-regulation by the pertinent sector. Finally, they discussed the link between micro-enterprise development and exports.

The Peace Corps, African Development Foundation, and USAID are already engaged in the promotion of micro-enterprise programs, as are African and American NGOs. The United States will seek to increase support for these programs, and African governments will seek to increase access to private credit and entrepreneurial opportunities for small investors, especially women.

Debt

All agreed that excessive debt burdens impede development and the transfer of new resources to countries in great need. The United States outlined its policy approach of providing relief – in concert with other major donors and the international financial institutions through Paris Club and HIPC – to governments that have taken steps to put their economies on a sound footing through the Paris Club. The U.S. noted the general consensus that economic reform by debtor countries themselves is the primary means by which countries in Africa will grow and sustain debt burdens in the future. Ministers also discussed the tension in debt policy between the desire for relief and the need to preserve a “culture of credit” in borrowing countries that will support private lending and encourage the effective use of loans.

African Ministers expressed appreciation for the relief provided by the international community. Some Ministers, however, stated forcefully that existing debt programs are not adequate to address the problems of a substantial number of African countries. A number of Ministers reported that their countries simply were not eligible for the HIPC program. Some said that forgiveness, not rescheduling, of bilateral debts was needed for a broader group of countries. Others said that debt relief for amounts owed to multilateral financial institutions has to be deeper, faster and broader, and a few said that debt relief is not the issue – but that all debt must be forgiven for the poorest countries.

Several Ministers also explained that their total debt, domestic and foreign, which remains unaddressed in international debt relief schemes, also constitutes a serious impediment to some governments' ability to finance development and social necessities. Several Ministers called for a new approach to international debt relief programs, with relief designed to suit a specific country's individual circumstances – on a case by case basis.

Some Ministers said that the determination of eligibility for debt relief and concessional lending does not take adequate account of the persistence of poverty in countries that have relatively higher GDPs. In this context, some Ministers requested debt relief, including multilateral debt, for middle-income African countries. These countries also have a lot of potential but cannot develop that potential if they remain heavily indebted.

The United States explained that its approach is designed to ensure that no country committed to fundamental reform is left with a debt burden that keeps it from meeting its people's basic human needs and spurring growth. To this end, the United States announced a major debt reduction initiative that includes components providing for deeper and accelerated debt reduction and inclusion of additional countries into existing debt reduction programs, both multilateral and bilateral. This proposal to the international community could result in forgiving an additional \$70 billion in global debt.

The United States said it would seek significant improvements to the HIPC initiative at the Cologne Summit of the G-7 countries in June 1999:

First, a new focus on early relief by international financial institutions, which now reduce debt only at the end of the HIPC program; second, the complete forgiveness of all bilateral concessional loans to the poorest countries; third, deeper and broader reduction of bilateral debts, raising the amount to 90%; fourth, donor countries should commit to provide at least 90% of new development assistance on a grant basis to countries eligible for debt reduction; fifth, develop new approaches to help countries emerging from conflicts that have not had the chance to establish reform records and need immediate relief and concessional finance; and sixth, support for IMF gold sales to do its part, and additional contributions by the U.S. and other countries to the World Bank Trust Fund to help meet the cost of this initiative. The United States believes we should be prepared to provide even greater relief in exceptional cases where it could make a real difference.

The United States recognized the need for a continuing global dialogue on the issue of indebtedness of the poor countries and anticipated that the subject will remain high on the international agenda. As to the immediate future, the United States said that for its part, it expects to participate with other creditors during 1999-2000, through the Paris Club, in further debt relief for African countries totaling \$2.9 billion. Having already forgiven \$1.1 billion of bilateral concessional debt owed by sub-Saharan countries in the early '90s, the United States will forgive additional debt owed by strong-reforming African countries under the President's Partnership for Growth and Economic Opportunity. During 1999-2000, this could amount to over \$400 million of concessional debt owed by six African countries, complementing Paris club and HIPC debt relief.

In conclusion, Ministers applauded the initiative proposed by the United States and some underscored their desire to see debt relief provided to an expanded range of countries. Ministers underscored the need to provide new financing to eligible countries in a manner which eases rather than exacerbates debt burdens. The United States reported that since 1985 it has provided new bilateral financing primarily in the form of grants to the poorest African countries to help keep their debt manageable – with grants totaling almost \$12 billion for the most heavily indebted sub-Saharan countries. Ministers joined the United States in its consistent and forceful call to donor countries to adopt the practice to help avoid the recurrence of excessive debt burdens in the future. The United States and African nations agreed to continue close and substantive consultations on Africa's debt burden in appropriate fora, as well as bilaterally.

Infrastructure

Participants recognized the critical role of infrastructure, particularly transportation and telecommunications networks, in supporting Africa's economic growth, facilitating national and regional integration, and expanding trade regionally as well as globally. Poor transportation and telecommunications infrastructures continue to be two of the greatest barriers to Africa's development. Currently Africa's roads, ports, and airports are not capable of efficiently handling increased international trade flows. Poor telecommunications raises costs for all users. The competitive advantages that Africa enjoys in terms of human and natural resources are severely

diminished by the inefficiency of these systems. Participants agreed on the importance of continued privatization of transportation and telecommunications enterprises, harmonization of regulations and standards, and increased private investment and international financial resources to improve African economic infrastructure.

Participants agreed to work more closely together to identify Africa's transportation corridors that are needed to support regional and international trade. African participants asked that the United States and other donors give priority to such regional projects as the SADC Development Corridors, the East Africa Regional Road and Communications Networks, the Trans-African and Transnational Road Network in Central Africa, and the ECOWAS Transnational Highway Project. They expressed appreciation for the Safe Skies for Africa initiative, which seeks to quadruple the number of African countries that meet ICAO standards for safety oversight and to improve airport security and air navigation services in Africa. They recognized that improving safety and security opens the door for expanded air service, and that air service means more opportunity for trade and tourism – two powerful engines for the economic growth of African nations. Participants also acknowledged other U.S. transportation and communication projects, including the Federal Highway Administration's technology transfer centers.

U.S. agencies, particularly the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the Export-Import Bank (Exim), and the Trade and Development Agency (TDA), agreed to expand their engagement with African countries and regional organizations in an effort to improve African air, surface, and maritime transportation, as well as communications infrastructure, through technical assistance and OPIC support for private investment in these areas.

Agribusiness

The participants agreed that agriculture in most African countries constitutes the backbone of their economies and is the major foreign exchange earner. They also highlighted agriculture's key role in employment and food security. They noted that previous African and international policies had impeded Africa's ability to produce and export up to its competitive potential. Ministers agreed on the need for further reforms, technical assistance, and international cooperation to open markets for agricultural products. They also agreed on the need for more cooperative research efforts in agriculture, and for U.S. assistance in attracting investment and technologies needed for value-added agricultural processing ventures in Africa. The issue of the market-distorting aspects of subsidies was discussed.

Energy

The need for sustainable supplies of energy to support basic human needs and aspirations is widely recognized as a critical component of development. Efficient energy systems are a key element of economic growth, productivity increases, and international competitiveness. Competitive energy markets promote efficiency, investment in improved technology, lower costs (including to consumers), and a higher level of national welfare. Energy also plays a key role in international competition and the ability of a country to attract private investment. Policy and regulatory measures in support of competitive, open markets that facilitate free trade and investment in energy are recognized as an important component of critical infrastructure

development. The United States and Africa stressed the importance of coordinating more effectively and economically Africa's national and regional energy and environmental programs. A strong, efficient, competitive energy sector can support growth and sustainable development and address local, regional, and global environmental concerns, including the effects of climate change.

Environment

African participants urged the United States to ratify the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. They also indicated the need for the U.S. Government to assume a leadership role in ensuring that industrial countries refrain from dumping and storage of toxic industrial waste and byproducts in Africa that are detrimental to its environment in general, and to its peoples' health in particular.

Regional Integration

Building on the Abuja Treaty as a cornerstone of regional integration, African participants stressed that regional groupings enhance African influence in the international arena and asked the United States to support such organizations as SADC, EAC, WAEMU, ECOWAS, UDEAC, CEMAC, COMESA, ECCAS, IGAD, and the IOC. Participants agreed that economic integration within Africa can improve economies of scale and reduce transaction costs for its own citizens as well as international business.

They also agreed that African regional organizations can help resolve conflicts, as ECOMOG has done, for example, in Liberia and Sierra Leone. In that regard, the United States pointed to the assistance it has provided regional organizations, such as ECOMOG and the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, as well as its technical assistance for economic integration to organizations such as SADC, EAC, IGAD, and COMESA. The United States is interested in extending that support to other regional groupings and agreed to look for additional ways to bolster regional integration in Africa, including encouragement for creative approaches by the international financial institutions. In the meantime it is coordinating closely with its SADC partners to ensure that the first-ever U.S.-SADC forum is a success. It encourages member states in SADC and EAC to ratify instruments that will make them eligible for GSP cumulation, as it encourages other African sub-regional organizations to take the trade-liberalizing steps that would make their members also eligible for such benefits.

Development Assistance

All U.S. and African participants agreed that development assistance remains an essential component of the effort to promote sustainable growth and alleviate poverty in Africa. Some participants noted recent research demonstrating that foreign assistance is most effective when provided to countries pursuing the strongest reforms. All agreed that it is essential to orient a component of current development assistance to support reforms now underway in order to elicit the trade, investment, and entrepreneurial responses needed to provide Africans more widespread and lasting opportunities to improve their standard of living.

African participants expressed deep appreciation for U.S. humanitarian assistance, which has saved millions of lives, as well as for assistance that addresses long-term development, for example the African Food Security Initiative and other programs that support a broad range of agricultural training and cooperative extension. At the same time, African participants expressed the need for the United States to support the United Nations through policies and funding, as these support Africa. To this end, African ministers called on the United States to make good on its financial commitments to the United Nations.

It was noted that U.S. assistance comes in many forms and through many actors such as USAID, the Peace Corps, the African Development Foundation, NGOs, and international organizations to which the U.S. is a major, often the leading, contributor; for example, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, the IMF, the World Bank, including IDA, and the African Development Bank and Fund.

African Ministers expressed great appreciation for the pledge President Clinton made during his trip to Africa last year to work with Congress to restore development assistance for Africa to historic high levels. As reflected in his budget requests for fiscal years 1999 and 2000, the Administration is following through on that commitment, with a focus on those countries where the policy environment is conducive to development. Of course, the nature of assistance and how it is used are every bit as important as the level of funds. Part of this equation must be finding the right balance between assistance provided through governments and through NGOs. U.S. and African participants agreed to consult closely on African national priorities, and they noted the particular importance of developing human capital.

Human Capital

African and U.S. participants shared ideas on how to enhance development of Africa's human capital and institutional capacity. They agreed that increasing literacy and numeracy by improving the quality of and access to basic education is the foremost area to address. This is the first step toward skills development, higher education, life-long learning, and success in a knowledge-based economy. They also agreed that globalization and technological innovation demand a transformation in educational approaches. Educational systems should be reformed so that they are more relevant, purposeful, and practical. This is especially true in the area of empowerment of women. The United States described new technologies and strategic partnerships between African and U.S. universities, schools, and civic education institutions envisioned by President Clinton when he announced his Education Initiative. Africans welcomed that initiative and urged its speedy implementation. They also asked the United States to support Africa's research and development programs, including with information technology. African and U.S. participants agreed on the importance of a policy environment that will encourage the transfer, development, and application of appropriate technology, and the United States agreed to look into increasing assistance in this area, which is already substantial through the Leland Initiative. Some African delegates requested that the initiative be expanded to other African countries, particularly those in Central Africa.

Participants noted that there is a large number of professionals and technically trained people who have left Africa. Participants agreed on the need to reverse the brain drain through an African-led effort.

HIV/AIDS

The participants reviewed the severe social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS globally and in Africa. HIV/AIDS has already begun to arrest or reverse significant development gains. The participants acknowledged the imperative for a strong political, multi-sectoral, and public health response to deal with the epidemic and its consequences. Senegal and Uganda offer models of how the incidence of new cases can be reduced. Participants agreed on the need for open and serious political discussion and the involvement of the populace at the grassroots level to combat this epidemic. The United States and Africa agreed to deepen their partnership in the areas of collaborative research on HIV/AIDS, effective and affordable treatment, and cooperative efforts to build African capacity to better monitor the prevalence of the disease.

Transnational Threats

Participants undertook to enhance cooperation in combating such transnational security threats as crime, narcotics, terrorism, and arms proliferation. All expressed strong support for the West African small arms moratorium. The United States and African participants expressed their mutual commitment to expand and build on existing cooperation to address transnational threats. The United States reiterated its sincere thanks for the cooperation it has received from African governments in the aftermath of the bombings of its Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya to ensure the mutual safety of all our citizens. They and the United States re-committed to working with each other to fight crime and disease and to ensure environmentally sound development.

Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights

African and American participants agreed on the mutually reinforcing nature of economic development and democracy, and they shared ideas on the links between the two. They thus reaffirmed their commitment to promote economic growth, democracy, and respect for worker and human rights. In this vein, the U.S. announced a new program to work with Africa to combat child labor. Participants touched on all aspects of good governance, and they agreed on the need to strengthen judicial systems and governmental checks and balances, introduce simple and clear regulations, and ensure accountability. Participants recognized the obligation borne by public institutions, notably including budget ministries and central banks, to be transparent and accountable in their handling of public funds. To this end, participants noted their interest in following current standards of public accountability, including the IMF's Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency. The United States, for its part, agreed to support technical assistance, both bilaterally and multilaterally via the international financial institutions, to enable African governments to meet these standards.

While Africa is not the only place harboring corruption, participants agreed that corruption wastes Africa's scarce resources and impedes its full integration into the world economy. Corruption's negative impact is magnified in poorer countries, compounding development

problems. Participants agreed that tackling corruption requires coordinated action – both national and international, including improved investigatory tools, better institutional and human capacity-building, and protection for anti-corruption advocates. African participants requested U.S. assistance with these efforts. There was general agreement that African countries should accede to a binding African anti-corruption convention. The U.S. encouraged this, noting progress made thus far.

There was general agreement on the need for greater international cooperation to strengthen the rule of law and democratic institutions. African participants shared lessons learned and success stories on how to implement strong reforms in these areas. They welcomed the Great Lakes Justice Initiative, which seeks to break cycles of violence by building credible, impartial justice systems and by bolstering ethnic reconciliation at the grassroots level. Another U.S. initiative in this field is Radio Democracy for Africa, which will work with African and American media to disseminate news responsibly through the region.

Conflict Resolution

Participants agreed that violent conflict poses a great threat to African reform efforts. They further noted that, while essential security needs must be addressed, it also is essential that military expenditure burdens not be allowed to divert scarce resources from vital social and developmental programs. Conflict saps resources and destabilizes countries and regions, scaring off potential investors. Participants further agreed that the enabling environment necessary for political and economic reform requires stability derived from strong mechanisms that prevent or mitigate violent conflict and its profound and lasting effects. African participants stressed the need for U.S. support for conflict resolution and programs aimed at integrating ex-combatants and demobilized soldiers in development efforts.

The participants agreed on the importance of building the capacity of African mechanisms to prevent and resolve conflicts. The OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution could serve as one such mechanism, but participants stressed that carefully planned support for increasing its capacity was essential. Many of the participants cited ECOMOG's contributions towards mitigating increased violence in the subregion, as well as collaborative efforts to build peacekeeping capacity, such as the African Crisis Response Initiative. They also expressed concern about the ongoing conflicts in Central Africa and their damaging effects on the development process, and they encouraged current sub-regional initiatives, such as COPAX, to prevent and resolve conflicts and to build confidence and peace. The United States and Africa agreed to continue to work together to strengthen African capacity in these areas. One such effort is the establishment of the U.S.-funded African Center for Security Studies and to look for a permanent location for the Center as a means to foster increased military professionalism and civil-military cooperation.

In sum, the United States and its African partners firmly committed to maximize their diplomatic efforts and cooperation on conflict prevention and resolution, a critical component of the growing U.S.- Africa Partnership. All participants also recognized the UN's efforts to resolve conflict in Africa.

ONE STEP, ONE JOURNEY

All agreed that the Ministerial helped further illuminate the breadth and depth of the U.S.-Africa partnership, and set it on a firm foundation for future mutual advancement in the 21st century. They undertook to advance their mutual commitment to work together for the benefit of all concerned. In this vein, they noted the importance of continuing a U.S.-Africa dialogue on issues of common concern and agreed to explore means of ensuring that consultations continue.



General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/1012
S/1999/755
6 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 147

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

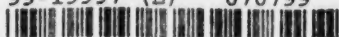
CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO
ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND
SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR
MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 5 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea on 3 July 1999 concerning Ethiopia's violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 147, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



ANNEX

Press release issued on 3 July 1999 by the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

Tigre People's Liberation Front's untenable diplomatic "conduct"

It is to be recalled that in flagrant violation of the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, and the various agreements between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and Ethiopia as a host country, Ethiopia has carried out the following:

- Expelled all Eritrean diplomatic and technical staff in June 1998;
- Picked up all local staff from their homes and streets and deported them;
- Encircled the Embassy premises and residence with a round-the-clock "security" watch;
- Prevented visitors, with the exception of other accredited ambassadors, from entering the premises;
- Denied the Eritrean Ambassador and his deputy freedom of movement;
- Declared Eritrea's Permanent Representative to OAU persona non grata and ordered him to leave the country within 24 hours. Upon his departure, security forces searched the Ambassador and his briefcase at the Bole airport and confiscated documents of the mission;
- On 11 February 1999 armed agents of the Government of Ethiopia forcibly entered the residence of the Ambassador. They ransacked the place and took away employees of the Embassy.

Now, after perpetrating all these crimes, the Ethiopian Government has alleged, in a press statement dated 1 July 1999, that the Eritrean Government has seized Ethiopian Embassy property by "confiscating documents sent in a pouch by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Embassy".

The Tigre People's Liberation Front's intentions are again, thinly veiled. One week away from the OAU summit in Algiers, at which Eritrea's legitimate grievances regarding Ethiopia's violations will be discussed, the Tigre People's Liberation Front is throwing in another decoy. The Government of Eritrea has never in any way hampered the Ethiopian Embassy or infringed on any of its inherent rights. Whereas, in Ethiopia, Eritreans have been denied any consular rights or protection.

Addis Ababa is issuing these claims to further "muddy the waters". No one should be misled. Ethiopia's violations must receive the unfettered and direct attention they merit.



General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/1012*
S/1999/755*
13 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 147

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO
ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND
SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR
MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 5 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea on 3 July 1999 concerning Ethiopia's violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 147, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUM
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

99-20661 (E) 160799



/...

ANNEX

Press release issued on 3 July 1999 by the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

Tigray People's Liberation Front's untenable diplomatic "conduct"

It is to be recalled that in flagrant violation of the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, and the various agreements between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and Ethiopia as a host country, Ethiopia has carried out the following:

- Expelled all Eritrean diplomatic and technical staff in June 1998;
- Picked up all local staff from their homes and streets and deported them;
- Encircled the Embassy premises and residence with a round-the-clock "security" watch;
- Prevented visitors, with the exception of other accredited ambassadors, from entering the premises;
- Denied the Eritrean Ambassador and his deputy freedom of movement;
- Declared Eritrea's Permanent Representative to OAU persona non grata and ordered him to leave the country within 24 hours. Upon his departure, security forces searched the Ambassador and his briefcase at the Bole airport and confiscated documents of the mission;
- On 11 February 1999 armed agents of the Government of Ethiopia forcibly entered the residence of the Ambassador. They ransacked the place and took away employees of the Embassy.

Now, after perpetrating all these crimes, the Ethiopian Government has alleged, in a press statement dated 1 July 1999, that the Eritrean Government has seized Ethiopian Embassy property by "confiscating documents sent in a pouch by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Embassy".

The Tigray People's Liberation Front's intentions are again, thinly veiled. One week away from the OAU summit in Algiers, at which Eritrea's legitimate grievances regarding Ethiopia's violations will be discussed, the Tigray People's Liberation Front is throwing in another decoy. The Government of Eritrea has never in any way hampered the Ethiopian Embassy or infringed on any of its inherent rights. Whereas, in Ethiopia, Eritreans have been denied any consular rights or protection.

Addis Ababa is issuing these claims to further "muddy the waters". No one should be misled. Ethiopia's violations must receive the unfettered and direct attention they merit.



General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/1013
S/1999/756
6 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 20, 105 and 110
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF
HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES: QUESTIONS
RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED
PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

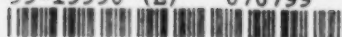
SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea today, 6 July 1998, on yet another deportation of Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin by the Ethiopia Government (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 105 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



ANNEX

Press release issued on 6 July 1999 by the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

Tigre People's Liberation Front regime resumes mass
deportation of Eritreans

One thousand four hundred and ten Eritrean civilians deported from Addis Ababa arrived at the port city of Assab early yesterday morning. The Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were expelled through the Burie front line 70 kilometres west of Assab. The deportees included expectant mothers, children and several handicapped and gravely ill people. A large number of the deportees had lived their entire life in Ethiopia and carried Ethiopian passports. They said they had been arrested and detained for periods ranging between three days and 10 months prior to their deportation.

Reliable sources in Addis Ababa are reporting that the Tigre People's Liberation Front regime is commencing another round of arbitrary arrest and deportation of Eritreans. This group of Eritreans is thought to be only the first batch of some 15,000 Eritreans who remain destitute in Addis Ababa and who will be deported in the coming days.

Many of the expelled Eritreans had been separated from family members who had been deported earlier and said they had become virtually destitute, having been denied employment and, in many cases, thrown out of their homes. They said the situation remains desperate for many Eritreans who have lost all means of income but have been prevented from leaving Ethiopia. Local journalists in Assab reported that seven of the deportees are currently in the Assab hospital recovering from heat exhaustion, dehydration and other conditions associated with the difficult journey.

Yesterday's arrivals bring the two-day total to 3,000. Thirty-one Eritreans were also expelled from Tigray between 23 June and 3 July after having their property confiscated. To date, the Tigre People's Liberation Front regime has deported 60,000 Eritreans from Ethiopia on the basis of their ethnicity.



General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/1013*
S/1999/756*
13 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 20, 105 and 110
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF
HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES: QUESTIONS :
RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED
PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea today, 6 July 1999 on yet another deportation of Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin by the Ethiopia Government (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 105 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUM
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

99-20666 (E) 160799



/...

ANNEX

Press release issued on 6 July 1999 by the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

Tigray People's Liberation Front regime resumes mass
deportation of Eritreans

One thousand four hundred and ten Eritrean civilians deported from Addis Ababa arrived at the port city of Assab early yesterday morning. The Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin were expelled through the Burie front line 70 kilometres west of Assab. The deportees included expectant mothers, children and several handicapped and gravely ill people. A large number of the deportees had lived their entire life in Ethiopia and carried Ethiopian passports. They said they had been arrested and detained for periods ranging between three days and 10 months prior to their deportation.

Reliable sources in Addis Ababa are reporting that the Tigray People's Liberation Front regime is commencing another round of arbitrary arrest and deportation of Eritreans. This group of Eritreans is thought to be only the first batch of some 15,000 Eritreans who remain destitute in Addis Ababa and who will be deported in the coming days.

Many of the expelled Eritreans had been separated from family members who had been deported earlier and said they had become virtually destitute, having been denied employment and, in many cases, thrown out of their homes. They said the situation remains desperate for many Eritreans who have lost all means of income but have been prevented from leaving Ethiopia. Local journalists in Assab reported that seven of the deportees are currently in the Assab hospital recovering from heat exhaustion, dehydration and other conditions associated with the difficult journey.

Yesterday's arrivals bring the two-day total to 3,000. Thirty-one Eritreans were also expelled from Tigray between 23 June and 3 July after having their property confiscated. To date, the Tigray People's Liberation Front regime has deported 60,000 Eritreans from Ethiopia on the basis of their ethnicity.



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/757
6 July 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 July 1999 from Mr. Humam Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafur, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. It contains details of the sabotage carried out by a New Zealand official working in Iraq under United Nations auspices, and it urges you to investigate this crime and take steps to end violations such as this being committed by persons bearing United Nations identity documents who engage in actions that are incompatible with the most elementary norms and standards governing the work of international civil servants.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex

Letter dated 5 July 1999 from the Acting Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Mr. Ian ("Red") Broughton is a United Nations official who is a national of New Zealand and works as a mine clearance supervisor in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate sector in a project under the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations of 20 May 1996 concerning the implementation of the oil-for-food formula.

I should like to bring it to your attention that in April 1999 Mr. Broughton entered the Klar district of Sulaymaniyah Governorate (contiguous to the Khanaqin city boundary) driving a vehicle with the registration plate 9047/Irbil that was operating for the mine clearance project and bore the markings of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Mr. Broughton unloaded a number of boxes from the vehicle and buried them in areas contiguous to Khanaqin district villages. A number of people from the tribes that inhabit the area near the localities where the boxes had been placed subsequently proceeded to remove them. When their contents were examined by agricultural experts in Klar district it transpired that they were locusts' eggs, the locust being an agricultural pest that destroys crops. When the area's tribes protested against this action, Mr. Broughton informed them that it was not directed against them but against the Khanaqin district and thence against the other governorates of central and southern Iraq.

This disgraceful and immoral act, committed by an official working under United Nations cover for a programme that is supposed to be of a humanitarian character, is in truth nothing less than an act of sabotage that, at bottom, advances the objectives of circles that are hostile to Iraq. It is incompatible with the international and humanitarian character of the mission entrusted to an international civil servant under the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Such criminal conduct is also to be seen in the context of the constant and frenzied attempts being made to destroy Iraq and, in particular, to destroy its agricultural resources and sabotage an economy that is already suffering under the embargo with which it has been burdened since August 1990.

As it condemns and deplores this disgraceful act, the Government of Iraq requests you to intervene personally to see to it that this crime is investigated, that the parties that colluded in it are exposed, that Mr. Ian Broughton is brought to trial, that the contract with the Australian company for which he works, GFC, is terminated immediately and the company is prevented from continuing to operate, and that an end is brought to these and other violations committed by persons bearing United Nations identity documents who engage in actions that are incompatible with the most elementary norms and standards governing the work of international civil servants.

(Signed) Humam Abd al-Khaliq ABD AL-GHAFUR
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/758
7 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the statement of the Government of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia regarding the joint statement signed in Pristina on 2 July 1999 by Bishop Artemije of Pristina and Momcilo Trajkovic with Hashim Thaci, under the auspices of United Nations and KFOR representatives (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex

Statement of the Government of the Yugoslav constituent
Republic of Serbia

The Government of the Republic of Serbia was informed today of the joint statement which was, under the auspices of UN and KFOR representatives, signed on 2 July 1999 in Pristina, by Bishop Artemije of Pristina and Momcilo Trajkovic with Hashim Thaci.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia expresses utmost indignation and condemns the attempts at manipulating the sentiments and the name of the Serb people in Kosovo and Metohija by the United Nations representatives who orchestrated a meeting of the alleged "representatives of the Serb people" with the Albanian representatives. The reason for such indignation, which triggered fierce reaction among a great number of Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo and Metohija, are the following:

1. The alleged representatives of the Serb people (Bishop Artemije of Pristina and Momcilo Trajkovic) represent only themselves. The Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija and other peoples elect their representatives. They have not delegated this right to United Nations representatives. A United Nations representative has no right to designate who of the Serbs from Kosovo will represent the Serb interests.

2. The contents of the signed "document", which, allegedly, should be devoted to reconciliation and tolerance, which, for the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Serb people, has always been a noble goal, has been grossly abused.

Before the eyes of the entire world, it is sought to portray that the alleged Serb representatives approve of, or, to say the least, absolve the crimes of the terrorist KLA and the crimes of NATO. Both of them, the crimes of Albanian terrorists and the crimes of NATO, according to the signed "declaration", have been absolved both by United Nations representatives and by the so-called Serb representatives. Together, they go even further. They accuse the legitimate Yugoslav authorities of crimes for their legitimate resistance to the terrorism of the Albanian separatist movement and the criminal aggression of NATO.

The Government points out that in 11 weeks, in which the "parties signatories" condemn the "crimes" of the regime - which have not been established by anyone nor can be established on the basis of accurate facts and truth - that in 11 weeks 21,700 tons of NATO bombs have been dropped on Yugoslavia and that, as the first bombs fell, the leadership of the Albanian separatist movement, over Radio Tirana, called upon its terrorist gangs to engage in killing across Kosovo and Metohija, which caused unforeseeable consequences in this territory. There is relevant material evidence to this effect as well as evidence of NATO crimes and the crimes of terrorist gangs called KLA, which the authors of the "declaration" do not have.

There is an obvious intent on the part of the perpetrators of genocide against the Serb people to have someone on behalf of the Serb people absolve and annihilate the crimes of KLA terrorists and the NATO aggressor in the eyes of the world public and erase the countless victims and the suffering of the Serb people and other peoples in Kosovo and Metohija, which unfortunately, even before the very eyes of the United Nations and KFOR representatives still take place, and to portray the defenders of the homeland as criminals. This is a historical disgrace, a repeated killing of the dead, which deserves to be condemned in strongest terms by all citizens of Serbia and the entire world public.

There is a danger that such an act by United Nations representatives, who staged this meeting, erodes legal as well as all moral principles upon which the United Nations is based. By such activity by the highest United Nations representatives, the crime is termed as law and the law is termed a crime. The crimes are absolved and the legitimate right of a State to self-defence is termed a crime.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia wishes to draw the attention of the entire international public to this shameful attempt at deceit and to express indignation with the United Nations representatives who have been deployed in Kosovo and Metohija on the basis of a Security Council resolution and who, instead of implementing that resolution, and above all, guaranteeing the security of all in Kosovo and Metohija, have put themselves in the service of hushing up the crimes of the NATO aggression against a sovereign country and hushing up the ruthless crimes of terrorists, unrecorded in history.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia deeply believes that by the continuation of a political process which is forward-looking and of life in tolerance and democracy in Kosovo and Metohija, a lasting peace can be achieved and considers that political talks among legitimate, not just any, representatives of all national communities should start immediately.



Security Council

Distr.
GENERALS/1999/759
7 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to advise you that representatives of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and KFOR have shown no readiness to solve the question of return of the customs authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the border crossings with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Albania in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

Following the retreat of the border police from the Yugoslav border crossings, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), customs officials were also compelled to retreat for reasons of personal safety as they too were threatened by the terrorist "Kosovo Liberation Army". The customs officials in customs warehouses throughout Kosovo and Metohija retreated also for the same reason, so that customs operations are carried out neither at the borders nor in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija as a whole.

On 22 June 1999, Albanian terrorists evicted the officials of the Pristina customs office from their official premises. On that occasion, they broke into the warehouse and other premises and looted their stocks, official cars and other pieces of inventory.

Bearing that in mind, the Federal Customs Administration and the Committee for Cooperation with the United Nations Mission contacted KFOR and UNMIK with the request that, in accordance with the resolution and the Military-Technical Agreement, they enable the customs authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to carry out, unperturbed, their legal duties and protect the State borders from the uncontrolled import of arms, ammunition, explosives and other devices threatening the security of the country.

At the suggestion of the Yugoslav side, a meeting was held in Pristina, on 2 July 1999, between the representatives of the Federal Customs Administration and KFOR at which agreement was to be reached on the return of customs officials to border crossings to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Albania in Kosovo and Metohija. A number of issues were discussed at the meeting and the Yugoslav side requested that its passport and visa



officials return immediately to border crossings and to offices and warehouses in Pristina, Kosovska Mitrovica, Prizren, Djakovica and Pec. They also requested that KFOR provide full security guarantees to customs officials, including on-the-job protection at border crossings and in customs offices and warehouses and escort between places of residence (Pristina) and border crossings. Unfortunately, KFOR representatives were not prepared to provide either security guarantees or minimum conditions for work to customs officials, obligations to which they are bound by the Security Council resolution. The meeting set for 3 July 1999 was cancelled at the request of KFOR, who said, in explanation, that the question is "complex" and that UNMIK too must be included in its solution.

The position on these issues taken by KFOR is unacceptable as the international security presence is duty-bound to create a security environment and provide security guarantees to all in Kosovo and Metohija, including customs and other officials.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests the Security Council to consider this issue urgently since KFOR and UNMIK continue to flout Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and its accompanying documents. Yugoslav customs and immigration officials must be allowed to carry out their duties forthwith since these duties fall within the exclusive competence of the Federal authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This is fully affirmed in the provisions of the resolution and its accompanying documents on the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/760
7 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a memorandum on the facts testifying
that the Prevlaka Peninsula is an integral part of the Federal Republic of
Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex
circulated as a document of the Security Council.

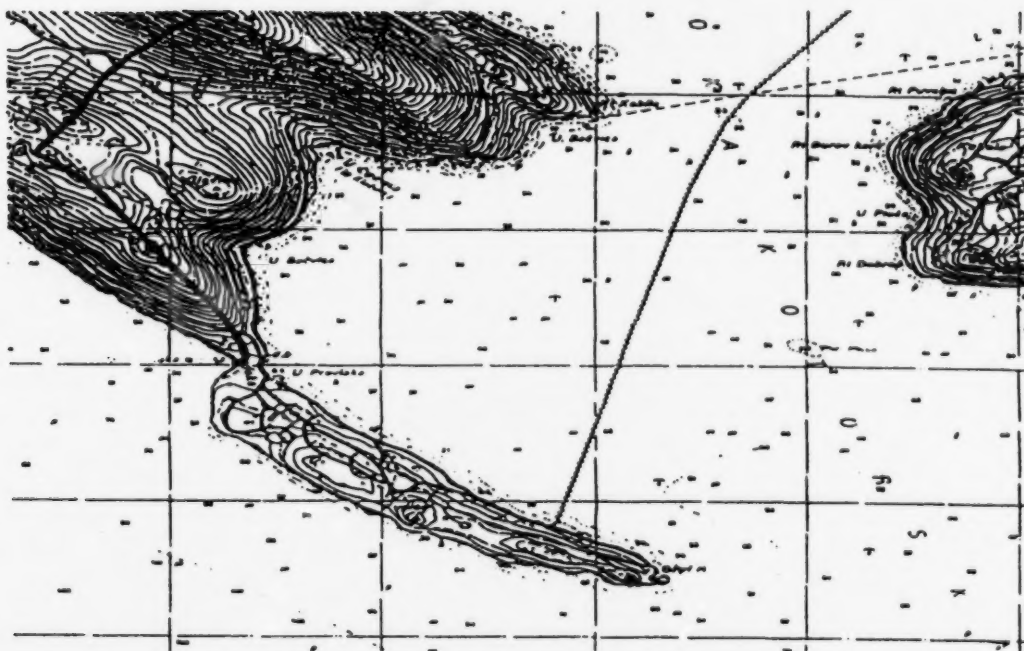
(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex

PREVLAKA - PART OF THE TERRITORY
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

- F A C T S -



New York, July 1999

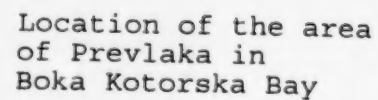
1. Prevlaka is an integral part of Boka Kotorska Bay, an inalienable part of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia



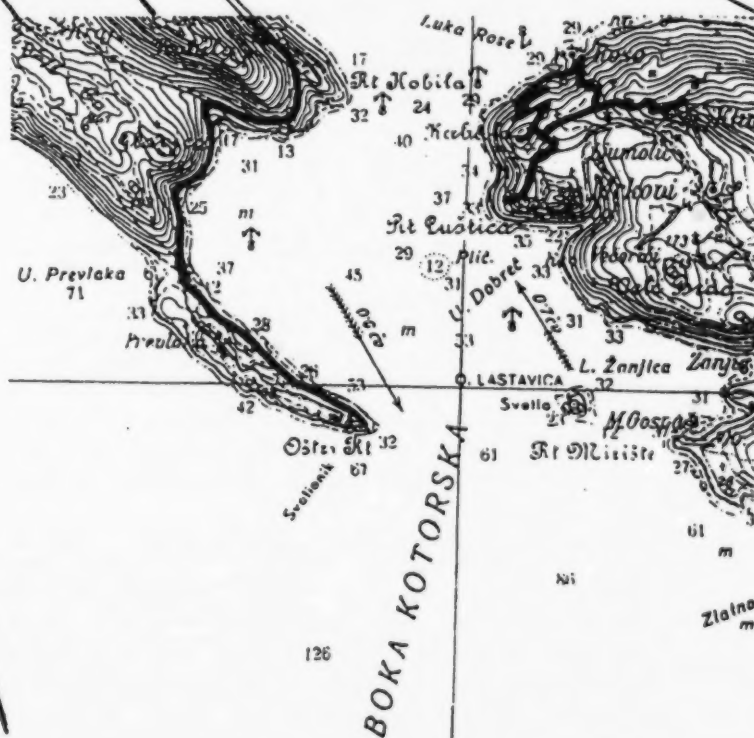
Location of the area of Prevlaka in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

2. The secession of the Socialist Republic of Croatia from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia created an artificial territorial dispute between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia on an accurate definition of the extension of the border line in the region of the Prevlaka Peninsula.

3. Prevlaka is a colloquial name of the small (99.8 ha), uninhabited, stony and hard-to-access peninsula of Ostri which makes up the beginning of Boka Kotorska Bay. Geographically, ecologically, historically and geo-strategically, Prevlaka is an integral part of Boka Kotorska Bay. There is also an isthmus called Prevlaka which connects the peninsula with the depth of the land mass of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.



Road Herceg
" Novi - Cape Ostri



4. Following the armed secession of the Socialist Republic of Croatia from the hitherto common State of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Hague Conference on Yugoslavia delegated on 20 November 1991 the question of the borders to Robert Badinter, Chairman of the Arbitration Commission.

The Arbitration Commission made its Opinion No.3. known on 11 January 1992, presenting three principles for border settlements between the former Republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: first, all external borders must be respected; second, the borders between [...] other neighbouring States cannot be changed except through a freely reached agreement; third, unless agreed otherwise, former borders shall become the borders protected by international law; fourth, the borders changed by force have no legal value.

Opinion No. 3 of the Arbitration Commission excludes the period before 1918 altogether, i.e before the Paris Peace Conference, so that the direct or indirect claim of the Croatian side to the State and legal continuity of Austria-Hungary, i.e. the Dubrovnik Republic, is irrelevant.

Following this Opinion of the Arbitration Commission the United Nations noted in a number of Security Council resolutions and reports of the Secretary-General that there exists a disputed issue of Prevlaka between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia to be solved by the two sides peacefully and through mutual agreements.

The existence of the dispute between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia has been verified also by the Security Council which, based on the will of both sides, deployed United Nations military observers in the disputed area of Prevlaka in October 1992 (SCR 779). Also, based on the will of both sides, the United Nations mandate on Prevlaka has been extended for 6.5 years. The disputed issue of Prevlaka has been treated by the United Nations as very important (a number of SCRs proceed from Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations) and the Security Council has adopted 10 resolutions on the issue so far, while the Secretary-General considered it in 18 reports.

Although there were indications during 1996 (SCR 1038 of 15 January 1996 and the report of the Secretary-General of 11 March 1996) that another international organization might take the task of monitoring the demilitarization of the Prevlaka Peninsula, the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia called in all its talks with United Nations representatives for an exclusive presence of the United Nations during the negotiations of the disputed issue, while the Republic of Croatia favoured an OSCE presence. The Yugoslav side always pointed to the importance of the presence of United Nations monitors and their contribution to the safeguarding of peace and stability in the area of Prevlaka, as well as to their contribution to the creation of necessary conditions and the maintenance of an atmosphere in which negotiations between the two sides on solving the disputed issue of Prevlaka could take place in a peaceful way. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to believe that the presence of the United Nations Mission of Observers on Prevlaka (UNMOP) is important and necessary pending a final settlement of the problem of Prevlaka. It calls for a consistent implementation of the UNMOP mandate as established by United Nations documents in order to avoid that the final settlement of this disputed issue be preempted.

5. The existence of the dispute in the area of Prevlaka was confirmed also by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia in the Agreement on Normalization of Relations on 23 August 1996 in which it is said that "the Contracting Parties are agreed to solve the disputed issue of Prevlaka through mutual negotiations" (Art. 4). The Agreement goes on to say that "Until mutual agreement on Prevlaka is reached, the Contracting Parties are agreed to respect the existing security regime established through United Nations monitoring." (Art. 4).

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia respects the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia within its internationally recognized borders, but points out at the same time that there exists a territorial dispute between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia as to where the line of the inter-State border in the area of Prevlaka extends. The Republic of Croatia also has other territorial disputes with other former Yugoslav Republics as, for instance, with Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Slovenia (at a number of locations), but those disputes have not been characterized as territorial claims.

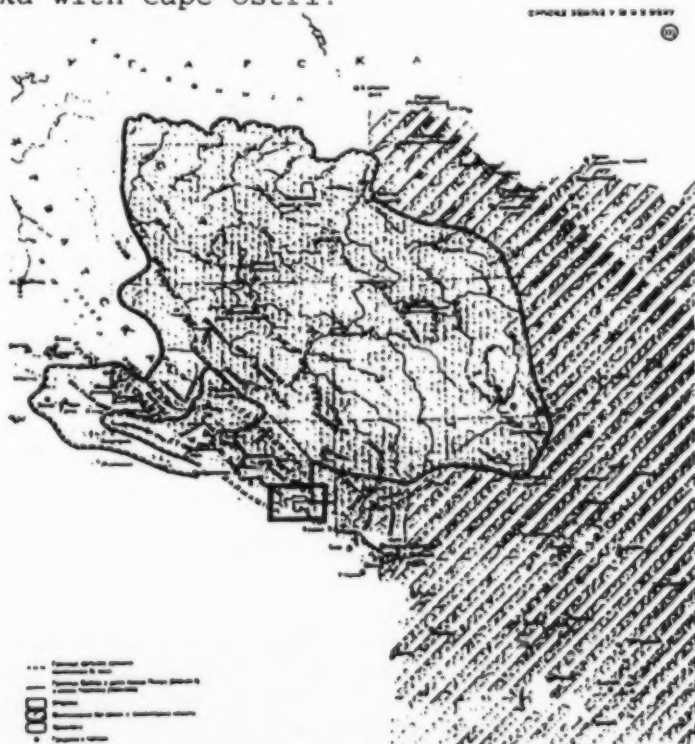
6. The territorial claims of the Republic of Croatia against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, vis-a-vis Prevlaka, are based on historical forgeries and an unreliable and irrelevant argumentation, as well as on the propaganda effect it created by a persistent and years-long contention that that part of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia belongs to it. In

order to convince those who are not familiar with the facts of the rectitude of its position, the Republic of Croatia has, contrary to those facts, accused the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of entertaining territorial claims, seeking all along to reduce the territorial dispute that it itself created artificially by its territorial claims to a security issue in the region of Dubrovnik and Boka Kotorska Bay. In that way the Republic of Croatia has sought to conceal its real position and at the same time to present itself as a flexible and cooperative partner. Thus a situation has been created of presenting Prevlaka as a disputed issue in international institutions.

7. The fact is that never in its history has Croatia ruled over the Prevlaka Peninsula and Boka Kotorska of which it is an integral part.

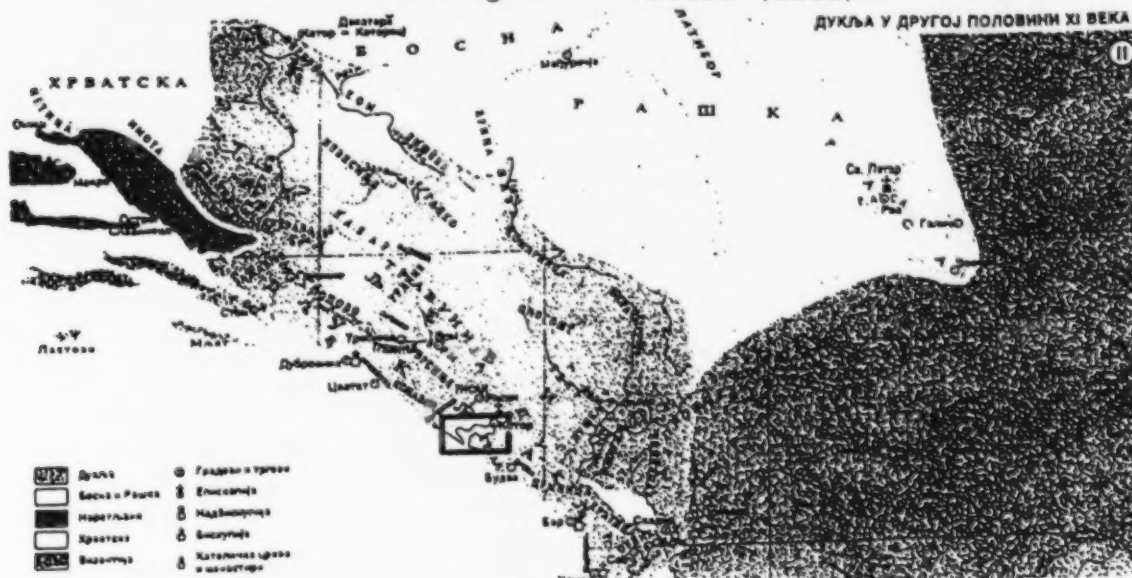
The southernmost point on the Adriatic coast of the medieval Croatian State (which ceased to exist in 1102) was located between Split and Omis.

The area of the Adriatic coast south of Omis was settled by Serbian tribes at the time of the Byzantine Emperor Iraclius (610-641 AD) who formed their first medieval districts/States in the area: Paganja, Zahumlje, Travunia, Duclea (Zeta). In the IX and X centuries the territory of the Principality of Travunia stretched to the east from Dubrovnik to Boka Kotorska and included Prevlaka with Cape Ostri.



Prevlaka as part of the Serbian Principality of Travunia, IX and X centuries.

From 1038 until 1077, Boka Kotorska with Prevlaka was part of the Principality and from 1077 until 1183 of the Kingdom of Duclea (Zeta).



Prevlaka as part of the Serbian Kingdom of Duclea in the second part of the XI century

From 1183 until 1371, Boka Kotorska with Prevlaka as its integral part was part of the Serbian medieval State of the Nemanjic dynasty (Principality; Kingdom since 1217 and an Empire since 1346).

The weakening of the Serbian Empire and the ascendance of the authority of local Serbian nobility accounted for the fact that from 1360 Prevlaka as part of Boka Kotorska was ruled by the local vasals of the Vojinovices, Altomanoves and the Balsices. From 1377 the area belonged to the Serbian medieval Bosnian State (Kingdom of Bosnia).

In 1420 the entire region of Boka Kotorska fell under the Republic of Venice which ruled it until the Peace Treaty of Campoformio 1797.

From 1797 until 1807 Prevlaka was ruled by Austria.

From the Peace Treaty of Tilsit in 1807 until 1813 Prevlaka was part of the Illyrian Provinces under French rule.

Meanwhile, in war circumstances, Prevlaka was ruled for a short while by Russia and England (1813) and Montenegro (from the decision of the Assembly in Dobrota on the unification of Montenegro and Boka of 12 November 1814 till the decision of the Congress of Vienna in 1815 when Boka Kotorska was given to Austria).

From 1815 until 1918 Prevlaka was part of Austria (Austria-Hungary from 1867).

From 1918 until 1941 the Prevlaka Peninsula with Cape Ostri was part of the territory of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1918-1929), i.e the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929-1941). According to administrative divisions of the Kingdom in the period, Prevlaka, as an integral part of Boka Kotorska was part of the Zeta District (1922-1929) and the Banovina of Zeta (1929-1939).



Prevlaka in the Banovina of Zeta 1931
(in the Map of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia -
made in Zagreb and printed in Vienna 1931,
currently in the Archives of Neuchatel, Switzerland)

Following the creation of the Banovina of Croatia (26 August 1939), the establishment of its administrative border in the area of Prevlaka was left for a subsequent re-arrangement of the country which never took place. The Agreement itself from which the Banovina of Croatia emerged was never verified in the Assembly of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

During World War Two Prevlaka was illegally ruled by fascist Italy from April 1941 to September 1943 and from September 1943 to November 1944 by Nazi Germany.

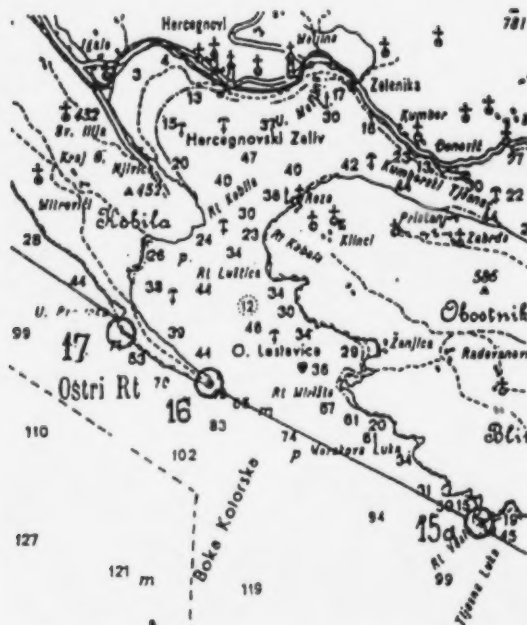
Following the military defeat of the Third Reich, Prevlaka was part of Yugoslavia and its constituent Republic of Montenegro in the period from 1945 until 1991.

Following the armed secession of the Socialist Republic of Croatia from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Prevlaka remained as part of the entirety of Boka Kotorska in Montenegro, i.e. the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

8. There exist legal acts of the common State of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia adopted at the federal level on the basis of which it is evident that, at the time of the secession of the Socialist Republic of Croatia and the adoption of the Opinion of the Arbitrary Commission of Robert Badinter, the Prevlaka Peninsula was part of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro which today is one of the constituent republics of Yugoslavia. Thus, with all its appurtenant installations and communications connecting it to the Montenegrin hinterland, the Prevlaka Peninsula has the status of an integral part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This is proved by the following facts: .

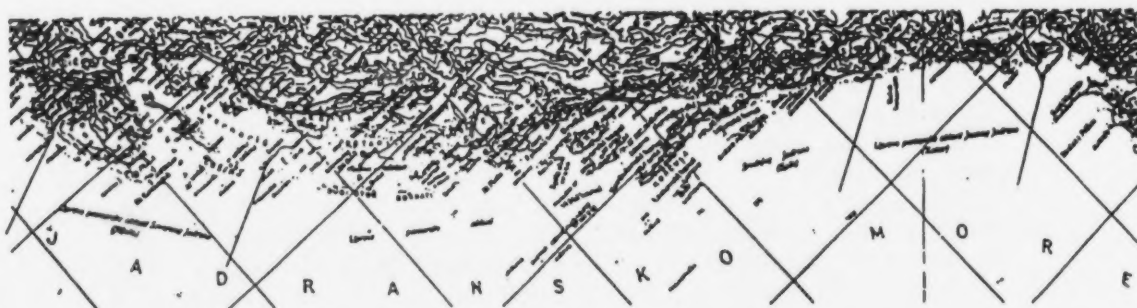
- a) The Law on the Coastal Sea of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia which entered into force on 8 December 1948, Article 3. of which says that the internal maritime waters of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia encompass also 'Boka Kotorska from the Connection Cape Vesla - Cape Ostri' whereby it is clearly defined what is considered Boka Kotorska, i.e. that Prevlaka is its integral part.

Furthermore, Article 4. of the same Law says: 'All regulations of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia shall be valid and applied in the internal maritime waters shelf.' These regulations of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia are relevant also for the determination of the direction of the extension of the administrative border between the People's Republic of Croatia and People's Republic of Montenegro.



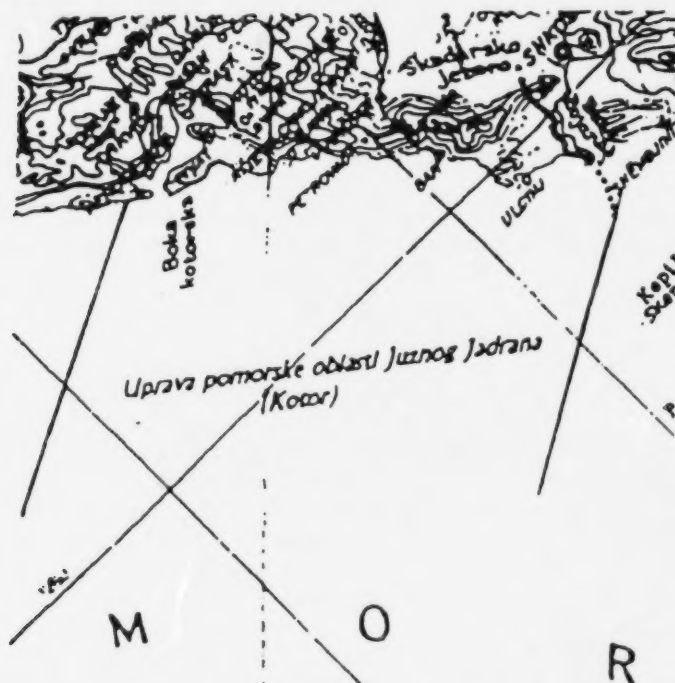
Boka Kotorska Bay begins from the
Connection Cape Vesla (15a) - Cape Ostri (16)

- b) Proposal of the Ministry of Seafaring of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia for setting up maritime districts, confidential number 3318 of 7 December 1951, to the Legislative Council for Building People's Government of the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia to the effect of creating three maritime districts. In it it is said, among others, set that the Third Maritime District will encompass 'the Southern part of the Adriatic i.e. the coastal area of the People's Republic of Montenegro.' (The Document is in the Archives of Yugoslavia in Belgrade, call number AJ, 50, F-84, pages 730-732).



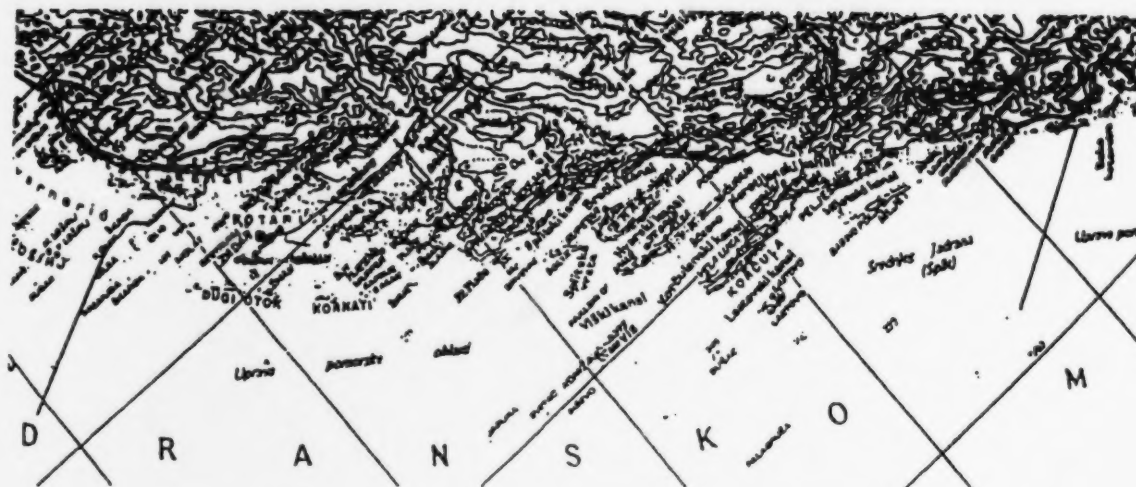
Administration of the Maritime Districts
Northern Adriatic (Rijeka), Mid-Adriatic (Split)
Southern Adriatic (Kotor)

- c) Decree on setting up the administration of the Maritime Districts, adopted by the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia on the basis of the said proposal which entered into force on 1 January 1952, Article 1. of which, inter alia says that the headquarters of the Administration of the Maritime District of the Southern Adriatic is in the city of Kotor. (The Decree is kept under call number AJ, 50, F-11, pages 147 and 148, published in Official Gazette of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia No. 1 of 1 January 1952, pages 9 and 10)



Administration of the Maritime District of the Southern Adriatic (Kotor)

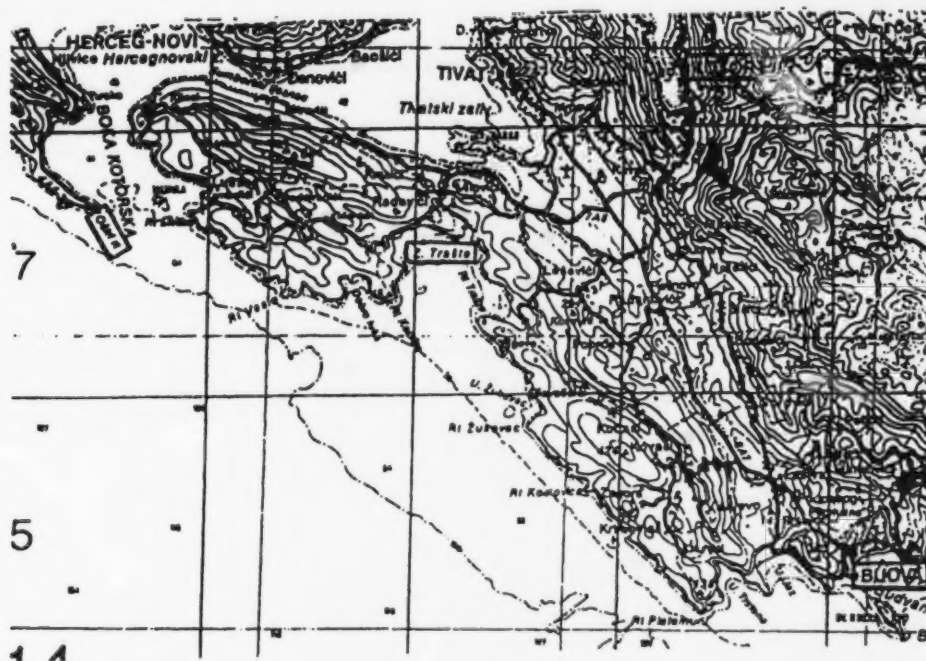
- d) Decision on the Territorial Administration of the Maritime Districts taken by the Minister of Seafaring of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia on the basis of the preceding Decree in which under 2) it is said that 'the territorial administration of the Maritime District of the mid-Adriatic, headquartered in Split, encompasses the area of the coast, islands and territorial sea stretching within the border which goes... to the Cove of Prevlaka northwest from the lighthouse of Ostri Cape.'



Administration of the Maritime District
of the Mid-Adriatic (Split)

The Decision under 3) says: 'The Territorial Administration of the Maritime District of the Southern Adriatic, headquartered in Kotor encompasses the area of the coast and the territorial sea of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia stretching within the border which goes to the Cove of Prevlaka, including the Prevlaka Peninsula, the coast and the territorial waters all the way to the mouth of the Bojana River...'. 'The decision was entered under number 1724 and published in Official Gazette of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia No. 28 of 21 May 1952, page 546 whereby it entered into force).

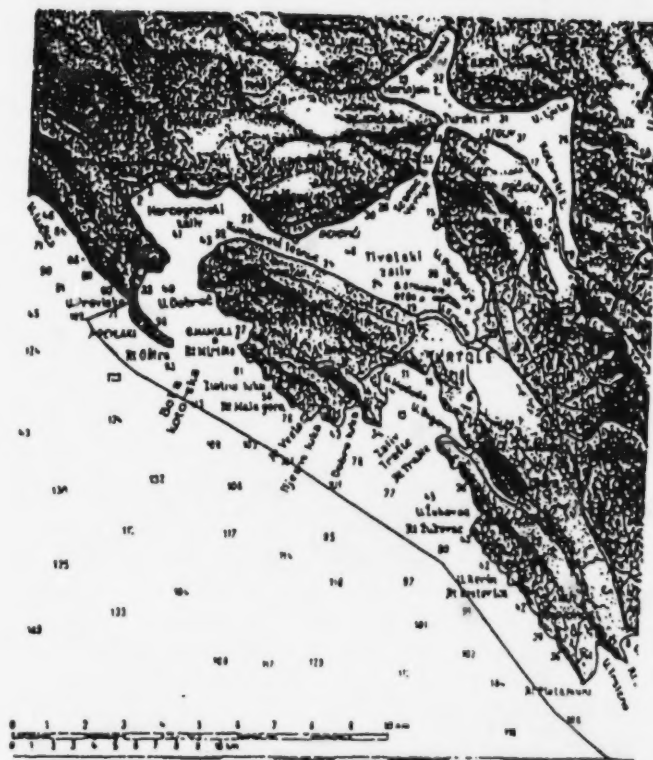
- e) On the basis of the said acts the competent authorities of the Republic of Montenegro exercised effective authority in the Maritime District of the Southern Adriatic which also encompassed Prevlaka which was also confirmed by the request to build a harbour in the Cove of Bigovo - the Bay of Traste (10 km northwest from Budva) submitted by the District People's Committee of Kotor, confidential number 34 of 1952 to the Ministry of Seafaring of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. In the explanation of the request it is, *inter alia* said: 'The Bay of Traste - the Cove of Bigovo, serves as a protection harbour also to smaller vessels in case of bad weather since no other shelter exists in the area from Cape Ostri to Budva. The Port Director's Office of Kotor is also agreed to this. This is kept in the Archives of Yugoslavia, call No. AJ, 552, F-551, confidential No. 280.



Confirmation of the authority of the organs of
the Republic of Montenegro over Cape Ostri

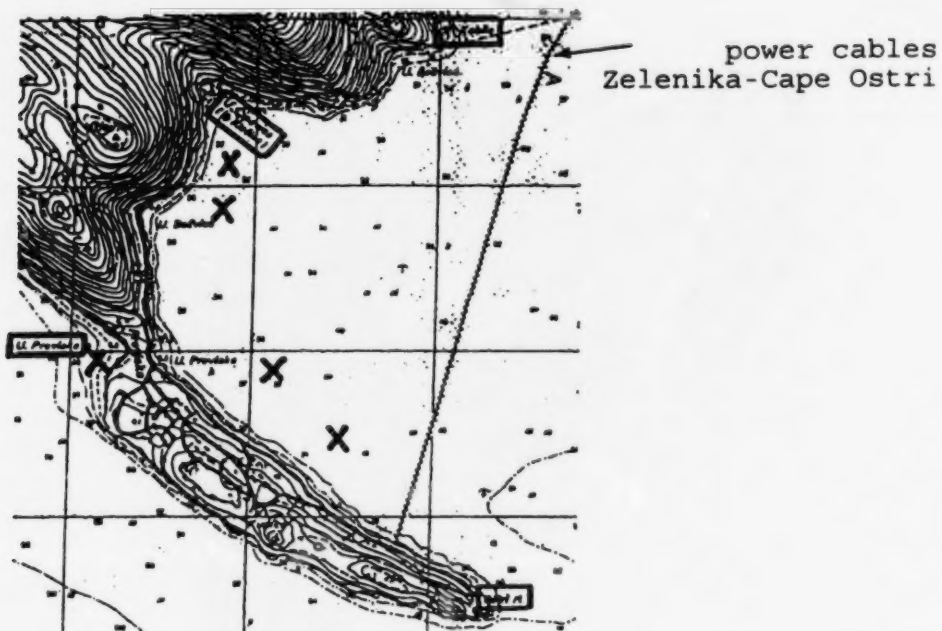
9. In addition to the legal acts of the federal State, the laws of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro and the Socialist Republic of Croatia also indicate that Prevlaka is an integral part of Boka Kotorska, i.e. of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The laws of the Republic of Montenegro from the time when it was a constituent republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia define Prevlaka as part of Boka Kotorska, i.e. of the Republic of Montenegro. The laws of the Republic of Croatia from the time when it was a constituent Republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia never defined Prevlaka, a part of Boka Kotorska, as a constituent part of the Republic of Croatia. For example:

- a) Article 2. of the Law on Maritime Fisheries of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro says: 'The fishery zone of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro [...] encompasses the part of the coastal sea and the continental shelf of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia located within the borders of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro'. Article 4. of that Law says: 'It is forbidden to fish with a dragnet (trawl) in the coastal shelf up to one nautical mile from the coast in Boka Kotorska Bay.' (The Law was published in Official Gazette of Montenegro No. 10/79 of 3 April 1979).



The northwestern part of the border of the fishery zone of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro, including the Prevlaka Peninsula

- b) On the basis of that Law the competent authorities of the Republic of Montenegro exercised jurisdiction in entire Boka Kotorska Bay, including the territorial sea around Prevlaka. This is also born out by procedures against offences committed on the sea in the Cove of Klacina in the area within the line Cape Ostri (on Prevlaka) - Cave Kobila and in the external Cove of Prevlaka. The offences committed in these locations were dealt with by the competent municipal courts in Montenegro.



Location of offences committed at sea
dealt with by the competent authorities of the
Socialist Republic of Montenegro



General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/1014
S/1999/761
7 July 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 38, 39, 40, 67, 74 and 155
OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE
ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST
THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN
THE MIDDLE EAST
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of
the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the press communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its resumed seventy-first regular session, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 3 July 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 39, 40, 67, 74 and 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



ANNEX

Press communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its resumed seventy-first session, held in Jeddah on 3 July 1999

On 3 July 1999 the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) resumed its seventy-first regular session, which had begun on 12 June 1999 at the seat of its secretariat in Riyadh, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Rashid Bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates and current Chairman of the Ministerial Council. The meeting was attended by:

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs of Oman;

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar; and

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

His Excellency Mr. Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan, GCC Secretary-General, also participated in the meeting.

The Ministerial Council reviewed developments with respect to the regional, inter-Arab and international political and security issues of concern to GCC member States.

The Council commended the boundary agreement signed by the United Arab Emirates and Oman on 2 May 1999 as a source of support for the course taken by the GCC and a concrete expression of the ties of brotherhood and affection that link the two countries. It wished the two fraternal peoples further advancement and prosperity under their inspired leaders.

Political issues

Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait

The Council reviewed developments in the context of Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait. It again expressed regret that the Iraqi Government was continuing to defy resolutions having the force of international law and to reject the initiatives taken and proposals made at the inter-Arab and international levels for efforts

/...

to be made in cooperation with the United Nations with a view to lifting the international economic embargo being maintained against Iraq and ending the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The Council recalled the relevant resolutions of the Arab Summit Conference held at Cairo in June 1996, the statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Arab States at their consultative meeting held at Cairo on 24 January 1999 and Security Council resolution 949 (1994). It affirmed that the Iraqi Government must comply with all the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait, specifically those concerning genuine cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross for the release of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and hostages, the return of Kuwaiti property, and an undertaking to refrain from any act of provocation or aggression against Kuwait and neighbouring States in order to promote security and stability in the region.

The Council reaffirmed its demand that the Iraqi Government should cooperate fully with the United Nations in the implementation of all the relevant Security Council resolutions and that it should take the necessary steps to demonstrate its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and its other neighbours by acknowledging that its invasion of Kuwait had been a violation of the relevant pan-Arab and international covenants, such as the Pact of the League of Arab States, the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the States of the Arab League and the Charter of the United Nations.

Recalling the well-established positions taken by the GCC member States and given their responsibilities at the pan-Arab, regional and international levels, the Council again expressed genuine empathy with the fraternal Iraqi people in the suffering it was enduring because of its Government's policies. It affirmed its determination to pursue the initiatives and efforts in which it was involved with a view to ending that suffering, notwithstanding the Iraqi regime's rejection of those initiatives and efforts. The Council also affirmed the importance of preserving the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

The occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, and relations with Iran

The Council reviewed recent developments in relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the context of the well-known and well-established positions of the GCC States. They were convinced of the importance of establishing good relations with that country based on the principles of good-neighbourliness, mutual respect, regard for common interests, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, the renunciation of the threat or use of force and the settlement of ongoing disputes through dialogue and by other peaceful means.

The Council renewed its commitment to and support for the position taken by the United Arab Emirates in its repeated appeals for a peaceful solution to the issue of the occupation of its three islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, in order to build confidence and strengthen security and stability in the region. The Council affirmed that the settlement of the dispute would

promote the development and strengthening of relations of cooperation between the GCC member States and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Council heard a statement from the United Arab Emirates to the effect that provocative Iranian intrusions onto its islands and violations of its airspace were continuing up to the present time.

The Council also heard details of the talks that had been held with the Iranian President, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Khatami, during his visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar, when emphasis had been placed on the importance of direct negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates on the question of the three islands. The Council conveyed its gratitude to Saudi Arabia and to Qatar for the efforts they had made in connection with the talks, and it voiced satisfaction at the views expressed by the Iranian President during the talks.

As it welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to embark on direct negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, the Council decided to establish a ministerial committee comprising Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and the GCC Secretary-General to devise a mechanism for initiating those negotiations, so as to resolve the issue of Iran's occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates by peaceful means, and to submit a report on the outcome of their contacts to the Leaders at their next consultative meeting.

The Council expressed its full solidarity with the position taken by the United Arab Emirates, and it affirmed the country's sovereignty over the three islands and the Council's rejection of their occupation.

The peace process in the Middle East

The Council reviewed developments in the peace process in the Middle East in the light of the results of the Israeli elections. It considered the possible repercussions of the results for a process that had been faltering because of the policies of the Likud Government and its leader, Netanyahu, policies that had repudiated the relevant United Nations resolutions as well as the agreements concluded and the obligations to which they had given rise. Renewing its total commitment to the principles established by the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, by virtue of which there had been a series of gains and achievements on the road to peace, the Council calls upon the newly elected Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Barak, to take the steps necessary to relaunch the peace process and to return to serious and balanced negotiations with the Arab parties on all the various tracks.

The Council urged the new Israeli Government to take action to revive the peace process and to resume negotiations on all tracks. This may be conducive to the restoration of legitimate Arab rights in compliance with the principles of the Madrid Conference and in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978); to the attainment by the Palestinian people of all its legitimate national rights, including the right to establish an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital; and to full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including withdrawal from the Syrian Golan heights to the boundary lines of 4 June 1967 and withdrawal from

southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa in accordance with Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and without restrictions or conditions.

The Council condemned and deplored the repeated Israeli aerial assaults that had sought to destroy civilian installations and the infrastructure of the Lebanese Republic, had left a number of innocent civilians dead and wounded and had undermined security and stability in the region. The Council calls upon the international community and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to intervene in order to require Israel to comply with the April 1996 understanding and put an end to bellicose practices that are to be regarded as a flagrant violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Council appreciates the efforts made by the co-sponsors of the peace process as well as the declaration adopted on 25 March 1999 by the European Union at the Berlin European Council affirming the unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the option of a State. It calls upon the countries concerned to play an ever more effective role and to urge the new Israeli Government to comply with the undertakings given to the Arab side by previous Israeli governments and to resume the negotiations on the Syrian track from the point at which they were suspended in 1996, as also on the Lebanese track, with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just peace and security and stability for the region and its peoples.

The Council values the positive and constructive efforts of the co-sponsors of the peace process in the Middle East and the continued endeavours of the United States Administration for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace. It also appreciates the role being played by the member States of the European Union and commends their declaration of 25 March 1999. The Council calls on the international community and all the parties concerned to intensify their efforts during this important and critical phase to help revive the peace process and place it back on track with a view to achieving peace and meeting the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the region.

The situation in Kosovo

The Council reviewed developments in the situation in Kosovo and expressed deep pain at the sufferings, expulsions and killings of the inhabitants of the area at the hands of the brutal Serbian forces. The Council welcomes the recent peace agreement as a first step towards a solution to the conflict and the return of the Kosovar refugees to their homes, an end to the fighting, and the restoration of security and stability and of the right of the inhabitants to live in peace.

Pakistan and India

The Council noted with great concern the military escalation in Jammu and Kashmir involving the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India.

The Council calls upon the two neighbours to exercise self-restraint and have recourse to reason and wisdom in solving the problems between them by peaceful means and without the threat or use of force, which can only bring them the gravest losses in human, material and moral terms. The Council commended

/...

the Pakistani position, which is committed to negotiations with a view to achieving peace and stability.

The Council invites the United Nations to assume a role in halting the fighting and to reinforce the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). The issue of Kashmir must be resolved on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions if peace is to be preserved and security ensured in the south Asia and Indian Ocean region.

The Council urges the two countries to enter into bilateral negotiations in order to eliminate the reasons for the current tension, to step up the ongoing bilateral contacts and negotiations between them and to respond to the diplomatic contacts and initiatives under way, and particularly those of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in order to defuse the crisis, restore calm and stability to the two countries and peoples and thus strengthen international peace and security.

The Lockerbie issue

The Council welcomed the suspension of the United Nations sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and it commended the efforts of Saudi Arabia and South Africa to find a just solution to the issue.

Elimination of weapons of mass destruction

The Council once more called upon the international community to take action to transform the Middle East region, including the Gulf, into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The Council again affirmed that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and submit all its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection regime.





Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/762
7 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release issued today, 7 July 1999, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea concerning two private communications, in writing, from the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity High-Level Delegation to the President of the State of Eritrea and their ramification on the Framework Agreement (see annex).

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUM
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
of Eritrea on 7 July 1999

Eritrea rejects any tampering with the Organization
of African Unity Framework Agreement

Ethiopia has yesterday published the private letters that the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) High-Level Delegation sent to the Eritrean President on 8 May and 20 May, respectively. How Ethiopia obtained copies of these private letters remains a mystery. The fact is that Ethiopia appears to have an inside track on the workings and documents of the High-Level Delegation. Indeed, this is not the first time. Ethiopia also received the full report of the OAU Ambassadorial Committee last year while Eritrea remained in the dark.

In regard to the letters, what is obvious is their contradictory content although they were written within the space of nine days. The first letter speaks about Eritrean redeployment from "Ethiopian territories occupied after 6 May". The second letter retracts the grave error qualifying it as: "our clear and renewed understanding is that this redeployment will not prejudice in any manner the claims held by either party regarding these areas". So are we talking about "occupied territories or contested territories". What is the location of these areas relative to the established boundary between the two countries? The truth is that all these areas fall within Eritrea's recognized boundary although they appear to be incorporated in Ethiopia's new and illicit map of 1997.

Moreover, the letters are in complete contradiction to the official clarifications that the High-Level Delegation provided to Eritrea on 26 January 1999, requesting, inter alia, "the redeployment of the troops of both parties from the entire boundary" with the exception of Badme from which Eritrea was expected to make a unilateral withdrawal as "a mark of good will" to OAU.

They are also in complete contradiction to the terms of reference of the OAU Ambassadorial Committee of last June, which was confined to the "collection from the two Parties and any other appropriate international organization and agency, information which would make it possible to determine the authority which was administering Badme before 12 May 1998". Eritrea then sought, in vain, to extend the mandate of the Committee to include all areas under dispute. But the OAU High-Level Delegation declined the request insisting that its mandate was confined "to ascertaining the situation in Badme". How is it that these letters now appear to grapple with issues that the High-Level Delegation has consistently refused to investigate?

It must be borne in mind that the OAU secretariat remains inaccessible to Eritrea as Eritrea's Ambassador to the organization was expelled illegally by Ethiopia in violation of the Vienna Convention and the Headquarters Agreement. Yet, these letters and "new recommendations" on the conflict continue to be drafted in Addis Ababa by people with little or no access to the second party.

These appalling acts sadden Eritrea. In the event, Eritrea wishes to underline once more that it will not accept any tampering with the Framework Agreement under any guise.



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/763
7 July 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF THE COMOROS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Two months after the political changes that took place in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, I have the great honour to write you this letter in order to update you on the social and political developments that have taken place in my country since then.

I consider this letter to be all the more necessary as a vigorous campaign of disinformation is being waged here and elsewhere with the clear intention of discrediting the new national authorities, despite the fact that it is thanks to them that social peace has been preserved in our country.

As you are aware, Sir, our country was on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe which was just barely averted, thanks to the intervention of the Comorian Armed Forces.

In fact, at a time when hate, xenophobia and barbarism were poised to triumph over the fraternity of a people - the Comorian people united by the same blood, the same cultural values, the same land and the same history - the National Development Army had no alternative but to intervene.

As subsequent events have shown, the National Development Army has succeeded in restoring civil peace in our country and in putting an end to the cycle of violence that threatened to lead it down into a spiral of "insular cleansing".

This, moreover, is why the intervention of the Comorian Armed Forces has gained the support of all sectors of the Comorian population as well as of a majority of the local political parties which had been overtaken by the events.

Furthermore, the series of dialogues and consultations which the new authorities undertook with the various sectors of our country, including political parties, trade unions, village communities and civil society, has resulted in significant progress towards national reconciliation.



The effectiveness of this reconciliation depends to a large extent on the implementation of the so-called Antananarivo Agreement, which remains the guarantor of the peaceful coexistence of all Comorians, regardless of their island of origin and the broader autonomy demanded by each island.

In this regard, the new national authorities, led by His Excellency Colonel Azall Assoumani, Head of State of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, have unambiguously reaffirmed their intention to respect the spirit of the Agreement.

To this end, the commissions provided for in the Agreement have already been established and the timetable set for the electoral process that should lead to the election of the next President of the Comoros.

All of these positive developments, which respond to the wishes expressed at Antananarivo by the different Comorian islands, have led certain political parties, despite their initial reluctance, to support the new dynamic set in train by the Head of State, Colonel Azall Assoumani.

A resolution, a copy of which is attached hereto (see annex), has been signed and transmitted by a large majority of political parties in the Comoros to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, urging him to review the position adopted by our Pan-African organization with regard to the situation in the Comoros.

Despite the restoration of internal stability and the positive developments under way in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, the climate of cohesion and harmony that currently prevails at the national level is being severely threatened at the international level.

The false allegations being spread about seem to suggest that certain sectors are seeking to punish the new authorities of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros for having saved our country from anarchy and barbarism.

The intransigent attitude adopted by some, including OAU, towards the new authorities of my country defies understanding upon close examination.

This is so despite the fact that, since assuming the leadership of my country, the Comorian authorities, who have been accepted by the entire population, have repeatedly declared their willingness to work together with all friendly countries and regional and international institutions to ensure the success of the transition period and to implement the Antananarivo Agreement.

Far from being inflexible and radical, the statements made by France, our main development partner, reflect the very responsible concern to see the Antananarivo Agreement implemented by all Comorians.

The position adopted by the International Francophone Organization on the situation in the Comoros follows similar lines.

In the face of this patent lack of understanding, I should be grateful, Sir, if you would be kind enough to use your authority to intercede with the

/...

member States of the United Nations Security Council on behalf of my country, which, more than ever, needs the active support of the international community.

On instructions from my Government, I request that you have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mahamoud ABOUD
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Resolution

Considering the various consultations undertaken between the new authorities, the political parties and the signatories to the Antananarivo Agreement of 23 April 1999 for the purpose of reviewing the modalities for the implementation of the above-mentioned Agreement,

Considering that the persistence of separatism is of great concern to the Comorian people and a major challenge at this the end of the second millennium,

Considering that the Comorian inter-island conference held at Antananarivo and the resulting agreement are major milestones and a useful foundation for pursuing the efforts begun by the people of the Comoros with the firm support and solidarity of the international community, especially the Organization of African Unity and the States of the subregion, to restore the unity and territorial integrity of the nation,

Taking into account the evolution of the situation in the islands and the political changes that have taken place since the Antananarivo conference,

Considering the declared intention of the national authorities to respect the spirit of the Agreement by effectively involving the parties in its implementation,

Noting the desire and ardent wish of all the political, economic and social actors in the Comoros to see the country return as early as possible to a normal and stable republican system capable of bringing about economic and social development through the establishment of a new institutional framework,

Fearing dangerous diversions that could result in excessive delays in the signing of the Agreement by the Anjouan side and in the implementation of its provisions,

The Comorian parties who have signed this resolution,

1. Call on all Comorians in our islands, and in particular those in Anjouan, to defend the higher interests of our common nation;
2. Urgently appeal to the international community to continue to support the Comorian people in the extremely difficult situation which they are currently experiencing;
3. Request the Organization of African Unity, in its capacity as chairman of the committee for the follow-up of the Antananarivo Agreement, to take all necessary steps to convene as early as possible the meeting of the above-mentioned committee;
4. Take this opportunity to thank the international community, and in particular the Organization of African Unity, for its efforts to find a solution

/...

to the Comorian crisis and to affirm their determination to do everything possible to ensure the establishment of the institutions of the new Comorian State.

Done at Moroni, on

Group	Name	Signature
Ngazidja delegation (party to the Agreement)	Ali Tohir	
Mwali delegation (party to the Agreement)	Mohibaca Baco	
PASOCO (formerly a federation, party to the Agreement)	Dr. Ahmed Affandi Ali	
RND (party to the Agreement)	Ibrahim Mze Abdallah	
RND Rénovateur (party to the Agreement)	Soulaimana Ahmada	
FNJ (party to the Agreement)	Djaffar Abdallah	
PRC (party to the Agreement)	Soule Islame	
UNDC	Mohamed Abdou Soimadou	
SHAWIRI	Hadji Ben Said	
RPC	Mohamed Siradji	
MCR	Darousse Maka	
UMMA	Moussa Issihaka	
Mouvement Wangazidja	Moubine Abdou Chakour	
Mouvement Populaire de Ngazidja	Hamidou Abdou	
NG	Mohamed Youssouf	
UFCD (civil society organization)	Ms. Sitti Sagaf	
Collective of the community of Ngazidja, in Anjouan	Saïdou Djazila	
Nouvelle Génération Ngazidja	Saïd Habib	
RDR	Youssof Mohamed (illegible)	
